



# Children & Youth Bill of Rights

City of Watsonville Teen Action Council, Jovenes Sanos, & Luna y Sol

# Recommendation

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- Resolution of the Watsonville City Council formally adopting the City of Watsonville Children and Youth Bill of Rights.

# Who we are:

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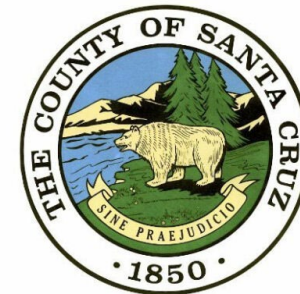
- Watsonville Teen Action Council is
  - A diverse group of youth committed to amplifying youth voices in local government, to ensure the hearing of various perspectives in civic decision- making.
- Jóvenes Sanos is
  - Jóvenes Sanos (JS) is a Watsonville-based youth leadership group working to elevate youth voices to shift the stigma around mental wellness and increase youth access to mental health resources.
- Luna y Sol is
  - Luna y sol center provides opportunities to build on strengths and resilience, improve well-being and quality of life, and disrupt the cycle of violence for predominantly Latinx youth ages 12-17, their younger siblings and families who are surviving exposure or direct involvement with pervasive violence.



# Led By:

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- Initiative led by Santa Cruz County Children's Network powered by United Way Santa Cruz County
- Previously adopted by County of Santa Cruz, City of Santa Cruz, City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley





# What the Children & Youth Bill of Rights Is

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- Outlines 10 Fundamental Rights for All Children and Youth
- Supports a Safe, Healthy Environment Where Youth Can Thrive
- Provides a Strong Foundation for Youth Development and Empowerment
- Promotes Equity and Ensures Equal Opportunities for Every Young Person



# Why the Children & Youth Bill of Right is Important

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- Guides Local Policies
- Promotes Accountability
- Affirms Fundamental Rights
- Builds a Strong, Equitable Future
- Complements 41 Developmental Assets and the work of the Assets Builders Collective





**#1 They have a healthy mind, body and spirit that enables them to maximize their potential.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Youth Center, Watsonville PAL, Enrichment Classes, Camps, The Nucleus, Library Services, Aquatics, & Parks
- Assets: 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41





**# 2 They develop a healthy attachment to a parent, guardian, or caregiver and an ongoing relationship with a caring and supporting adult.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:** Teen and Youth programs, Library Services, Parks, Field Rentals
- **Assets:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14





**#3 They have a safe and healthy environment, including homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville PD, Watsonville Fire, Watsonville Youth Center, Watsonville PAL, Parks
- Assets: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 31, 34, 36





## #4 They have access to quality education that promotes future success in school, career and life.

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Library Services,  
Watsonville Youth Center,  
Watsonville PAL, Enrichment  
Classes, PVUSD ELOP Contract
- **Assets:** 5, 10, 12, 21, 22, 23, 24,  
25, 30, 35, 39, 40





**#5 They have training in life skills that will prepare them to live independently, be self-sufficient and positively contribute to their community.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:** Summer in the City Internship, Opportunity to Work, Junior Guards, Watsonville Youth Center, Teen Action Council
- **Assets:** 22, 32, 33, 34, 25, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41





## #6 They have employment opportunities with protections from unfair labor practices.

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Parks and Community Services,  
Watsonville PAL, Opportunity to Work
- Assets: 3, 7, 9, 10, 14





## #7 They have freedom from mistreatment, abuse and neglect.

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Police, Watsonville PAL, Watsonville Youth Center, The Nucleus, Camps
- Assets: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 26, 27, 28, 35, 36, 38





## #8 They voice opinions in matters of interest to them, develop their leadership capacity and engage in their community.

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Youth Center,  
Watsonville PAL, Teen Action  
Council, Volunteer Opportunities
- Assets: 7, 8, 9, 27, 37, 38, 39, 40,  
41





**#9 They feel supported by the larger community and maintain a sense of hope for the future.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Youth Center,  
Watsonville PAL, Community Events
- Assets: 3, 5, 7, 13, 40





**#10 They are encouraged to explore and express their innate curiosity and creativity.**

- **Current City of Watsonville Programs or Initiatives:**  
Watsonville Youth Center,  
Watsonville PAL, Enrichment  
Classes, Camps, Aquatics, Parks,  
Library Services
- Assets: 17, 18, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,  
31, 32





# Next Steps

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- Support Current Initiatives
  - Youth workforce development programs
  - Civic engagement opportunities
  - Culturally relevant programming
- Stay Responsive
  - Continuously adapt programs to meet evolving needs of Watsonville Youth
- Strengthen Collaborations
  - Partner with local organizations, schools, and youth leaders
  - Foster a thriving environment for all youth



# Conclusion

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- The City Council has already embraced 41 Developmental Assets, aligning closely with the Children & Youth Bill of Rights
- This initiative will help foster a healthy, connected, and supportive community for young people
- Demonstrates the City of Watsonville's commitment to youth, building stronger bonds between young people and their community
- It's more than a policy — it's a promise





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# Questions?

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